

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. Submitted herewith are revised Figures 1 and 3 bearing the legend "Prior Art". Claim 12 has been amended to address the objections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

In addition, claims 13-17 have been added which place the original claims 4-7 in independent form. These claims should now be in condition for allowance.

As to remaining claims, they have been rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,558,926 to Tate.

The present invention provides for an edge coating that inhibits at the transition point of a fabric hinging or pivoting of the edge portion with respect to the body of the fabric. Flexing at the transition point is distributed gradually over a greater area through the use of a pattern in which the coating is applied. This extends the time period for fatigue to set in and the ultimate failure of the fabric.

For clarification purposes, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the coating at the edge portion is in a non-linear pattern, i.e. something other than a straight line. This language is supported by Figures 4A – 4C.

Clearly Tate does not disclose or suggest providing a coating in a non-linear pattern, aside from other distinctions therefrom provided by the present invention.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 1-12 are patentably distinct therefrom and a Notice of Allowance as to all the claims is earnestly solicited.

PATENT
930009-2004

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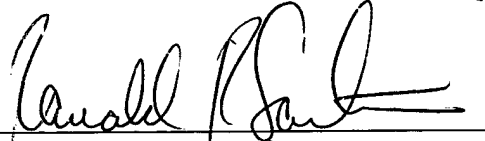
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Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicant

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MAY 27 2003
TC 1700

By



Ronald R. Santucci
Reg. No. 28,988
Tel. (212) 588-0800